

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

OPM-11

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

May 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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Exec. Reg.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

FBIS 2611-88
1 June 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THRU: Acting Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan--May 1988

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Libya figured prominently in several West African developments in May. The major one concerned Chad. Early in the month, France announced that they were building an air base at Faya-Largeau in Chad. This immediately drew a sharp Libyan condemnation. As the month progressed, Chad reported continuing Libyan overflights and maintained that Libya had killed 43 Chadians in Libya who had rebelled against forced conscription. Libya in turn reported "fierce" fighting among Chad factions in the north. Later in the month the OAU met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the Aozou Strip controversy between Chad and Libya scheduled as a major item on the agenda. Al-Qadhdhafi elected not to attend but surprised the forum with a public announcement that Libya now recognized the Habre regime, offered a "Libyan Marshal plan" to reconstruct northern Chad and said all outstanding problems between Chad and Libya were ended. Not surprisingly, President Habre welcomed the announcement but suggested it would be prudent to wait to see if words were matched with deeds.

In other developments involving Libya, both Burkina Faso President Compaore and Nigerian President Babangida visited Libya towards the end of the month as well as the Sierra Leone foreign minister. Very little was reported on the separate visits and what did emerge were bland announcements on promoting bilateral cooperation.

2. Senegalese politics were active again in May. Against a background of several car bombings in Dakar, which is quite unusual, opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade was given a 1-year suspended sentence for inciting post-election violence. President Diouf then announced the lifting of the state of emergency that had been in effect in Dakar since the recent presidential elections, a draft amnesty bill, and plans to meet with Wade. The meeting took place at the end of the month and while no major pronouncements were made, President Diouf seems to have successfully defused the tense political situation for the moment.

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3. Other political developments of note included a major Angolan-South African meeting held in Brazzaville, Congo; a student demonstration in Burkina Faso in support of the policies of former president Sankara, killed in an October coup; and decreasing minor disturbances in Nigeria over a price increase for petrol. Nigeria also successfully pressured Equatorial Guinea to expell several South Africans working on a project and there was a major cabinet reshuffle in Cameroon following President Biya's election to another term.

B. Communications

The bureau's back-up Telex circuit went out yet again early in the month and remains out of service as of this date. The PTT attributes the outage to widespread line problems following recent rainstorms. Chronic PTT cable problems have also put one of the bureau phone extensions and the AFP landline out of service.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Engineer [] departed on 25 May after a 3-year tour at Abidjan Bureau. His successor, [] arrived as scheduled on 12 May.

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2. Chief Monitor [] received a PSI during the month.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

1. Construction of the bureau security wall was completed in late May. Also, work has been completed on security grills on the bureau second floor. Contractors installing closed circuit television are still awaiting the arrival of the equipment from Paris.

2. The first phase of a much-needed electrical upgrade was completed during the month. The circuit breaker on the commercial power supply input has been upgraded to match bureau needs which have, over the years, outgrown the capacity of the building, originally designed to be a private residence. If all goes well, work on the second phase of the upgrade will begin in June.

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[]
Chief, Abidjan Bureau

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau